

7. Note prodigal son--separated from father --life becomes meaningless, lonely, miserable. Father longed for him. So does God long for those who are so unconcerned.
8. Matt 23:37--How often God would have hovered over Jerusalem BUT HE WOULD NOT.
9. God's concern finally climaxed in Calvary Christ's heart broke as he looked over the mass of hardened Jews--"Father forgive them"
10. God yearns for us--you--to come to him.

CONCLUSION:

1. How can we heal the heartbreak in heaven?
2. Luke 15--lost sheep, coin, boy--recovered, rejoicing.
3. REPENTANCE AND RETURN TO GOD WILL HEAL
4. OBEDIENCE TO HIS WILL WILL CAUSE REJOICING IN HEAVEN
5. LET US: Fill our heads with God's will
Fill our ears with God's people
Fill our hands with offerings, with other souls
Fill our lives with love and with Christ.
6. May we put God first.

Vidor, Texas 11/24/68
9/22/74
5/2/76
Bridge City, TX 8/3/82
Anahuac, TX 5/17/92

INTRODUCTION:

1. When we think of God--Love, Mercy, kindness, grace, compassion, longsuffering, goodness, etc.
2. We seldom consider God as capable of ^{intense} emotion and heartache.
3. We are intensely ~~aware~~ of HEARTACHE on earth:
Suffering everywhere--disease, sickness, divorce, broken-homes, loneliness, suffering of body and soul....
Heartache all around us, on all sides.
4. God, too, is capable of suffering--Not only is He the God of compassion, jealousy, anger, love-- BUT ALSO, we need to see the nature of God that shows suffering, heartache.

NOTE: Jesus weeping at his friend's tomb--Lazarus.

Prodigal Son--Father longing for his return.

5. WHAT BREAKS GOD'S HEART????

People, particularly---God's people break His heart.

Hosea understood heartache--had an unfaithful wife.

Through his own suffering he understood something of God's suffering over fickle Israel.

Israel--His people--gone off after idols, the flesh.

Israel today--THE CHURCH--So often causing Heartache in Heaven.
Doesn't take an Einstein to see that many members of the church break their Father's heart.

6. We often think of our own sorrow, our own hurts, our own suffering; indeed, we seldom think long of anything else BUT, May we break the little cells of our own self-pity and mediate on God's sorrow--HIS HEARTACHE.

WHAT CAUSES GOD TO HAVE HEARTACHE IN HEAVEN?????

I. OUR EMPTY MINDS BREAK GOD'S HEART:

Jea 5:13

1. Hosea 4:6--"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."
2. Willful ignorance of His Word.
3. In the world there is an appalling vacuum of Bible knowledge.
4. Time magazine gave 112 question Bible quiz--High school seniors:
(1) Sodom and Gomorrah were lovers.
(2) Gospels written by Matt, Mark, Luther, John
(3) Jesus baptized by Moses, etc. etc.
5. And how often this problem skips into the church.
Members who care little about Bible study, classes, often limiting their religious intake to one hour a week, less SO UNCONCERNED--SURELY IT BREAKS GOD'S HEART
6. Willful ignorance does not please God--Rom 12:1-2.
7. WE NEED TO STUDY--2 Tim 2:15; 1 Pet 3:15; Heb 4:11; Jas 1:25.

1. OUR EMPTY PEWS BREAK GOD'S HEART:

1. cf. Young preacher and family, last to leave building, 5 year-old daughter said, "Don't the church look sad."
2. An empty church and vacant pews break God's heart.

3. There are crowds everywhere: School overcrowded, highways, State parks and camp grounds, Thousands pack football games pushing and shoving for tickets, standing for hours, etc. BUT CHURCHES ARE HALF FULL--HEARTACHE IN HEAVEN
Have to beg people--even members to attend and worship their God, plead with them.

Denominations have gone to social appeals, fun and recreation.

4. Not strange when those in world refuse--BUT BRUTAL FACT that supposedly Christians are absentees from services
5. Ingratitude shown toward God and His manifold blessings.
6. Suppose you prepared a supper and invited guests who promised to come, but none showed up --Heartache, anger, etc.
7. How do you think God feels when we cast him aside for our own selfish, small, fleshly feelings?
8. We break God's heart with our empty pews.
9. Paul's concern--2 Cor 11:28. -"Anxiety for all the churches"

III. OUR EMPTY HANDS BREAK GOD'S HEART:

1. FIRST, we fail to give God the firstfruit of our energy, etc.
2. "More money in America spent in breeding and feeding of Dogs than given to churches." How about us? How do we spend?
3. Problem NOT that we are poor in material things--RICH.
But this is a spiritual condition, spiritual sleep.
4. A faith in God that makes only a TOKEN OFFERING, is so weak it break's God's heart.
5. SECOND: we come empty-handed in a failure to WIN SOULS TO CHRIST
"Let the preacher do that, he's paid for it" NOT SO!
Acts 8:1-4--each member accepted responsibility.
6. Imagine Judgment scene--Standing before God alone, empty-handed
"Do you mean to say that you brought no one with you?
Didn't my love for you mean enough to you during all those years to impell you to tell someone else?"
OFTEN even undervalued about family, children, etc.
7. WE BREAK GOD'S HEART WITH EMPTY HANDS.

IV. OUR EMPTY LIVES BREAK GOD'S HEART:

1. So much of life is wasted, used so unwisely.
2. We set goals, attain them, find them meaningless, fruitless.
3. That for which we strive so diligently, find shallow, empty
4. Cf. Shipwreck, safely to shore, hungry, etc.
Box washes ashore, "Only someone's pearls, money,"
5. Portuguese luxury liner Santa Maria left South Amer, for Europe
Hundreds of vacationers, swimming pools, bars, etc.
One night--pirates took over ship, killed captain.
Next morning as news spread, passengers lost interest in entertainment, etc., anxiety now--
6. Same sense of meaningless and anxiety in lives of those who lose touch with God. Have a stranger at the helm of our ship.
Who guides your ship? God or the pants?